

October 2007 Newsletter

Native Plant Society of Texas - South Texas Chapter



October 4th – Monthly Meeting – Guest Speaker John Snowden

Our monthly meeting will be Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Garden Senior Center, 5325 Greely Drive, Corpus Christi.

John Snowden of Bluestem Nursery in Arlington, TX will speak about grasses in the landscape. Feel free to come as early as 6:30 p.m. to visit with Ann and other members.

Chapter Updates

Renewed Memberships

Thank you for your continued interest and support.

Ernie Edmundson of Rockport
Deborah Overath and David J. Grise of Corpus Christi

Our Next Meeting is November 1st

**Plant and Animal Interactions
with Shelly Maher**

Please Support the Garden Council

Our chapter is able to meet at the Garden Senior Center for free because we are a part of the Corpus Christi Garden Council – all we pay is \$20 a year. Therefore, each club needs to support the annual Garden Tour which is the Garden Council Fund raiser.

Fall NPSOT Symposium October 18th – 21st

NPSOT and Native Prairies Association of Texas (NPSAT) Symposium - The Blackland and Grand Prairies and Grasslands of the Edwards Plateau: Efforts to Identify, Restore, Conserve and Celebrate a Natural Treasure will be held in Georgetown, TX this fall. It is open to the public. See (<http://npsot.org/symposium2007/>) for more details. If you are not a current member of NPSOT or NPAT and wish to receive a registration packet for the 2007 Joint Symposium, please see (<http://npsot.org/symposium2007/home/registration.shtml>) to submit contact information via email or postal mail.

Do You Know Your Natives???" Contributed by: USDA-NRCS Kika de la Garza Plant Materials Center



Halls panicum (*Panicum hallii* Vasey) is a warm season, perennial bunchgrass that grows 2-3 feet tall (Gould, 1975). It flowers from April to November and reproduces by seed. The panicles have few to many branches and are pyramidal in form. Often, when flowering, the seedheads have an attractive pink hue. Spikelets occur on short appressed pedicles or occasionally spreading on capillary branchlets (Gould, 1975). Its basal leaves will curl as they age and resemble dried wood shavings, which provides a good identifying characteristic.

Halls panicum is scattered to abundant on sandy to clayey calcareous soils throughout all regions of Texas except the Pineywoods (Gould, 1975).

There are two varieties of this species: *hallii* and *filipes*. *Panicum hallii* var. *hallii* (previously



Panicum hallii) can be found from Oklahoma to Colorado to Texas and Arizona and down into Mexico (Hitchcock, 1971). It is found mostly in the rocky, dry uplands in the western two-thirds of Texas (Correll and Johnston, 1996), but can also be found on calcareous soils along the Gulf Coast. It is palatable for all livestock, but provides only fair quality forage (Hatch, Schuster, and Drawe, 1999). In addition, it tends to decrease under heavy grazing (Gay, Dwyer, Hatch, & Schickendanz, 1980).

Panicum hallii var. *filipes* (previously *Panicum filipes*) is found from Louisiana to Texas, and down into northeastern Mexico (Hitchcock, 1971). It is found along roadsides and in disturbed lowlands from North Central Texas, south to the Rio Grande Plains, and less frequently in West Texas, in all but the extreme Northern and Western portions of the Panhandle (Gould, 1975). It is commonly called Filly Panicum (Hignight, Wipiff, & Hatch,

1988), although the common name, Hall's Panicgrass, has been used as well. The latter name may come from the high degree of introgression found between the two varieties (Correll & Johnston, 1996). *Panicum hallii* var. *filipes* tends to be more productive than var. *hallii*, but produces only fair to poor quality livestock forage. The seeds of both varieties can be eaten by birds (Hatch, Schuster, and Drawe, 1999). The two varieties can be distinguished from one another because var. *filipes* tends to be taller, have longer, more relaxed leaf blades, have larger, looser panicles, and smaller spikelets.



Info Sources: *Manual of the Vascular Plants of Texas* - Correll and Johnston; *The Grasses of Texas* - Gould, 1975; *Grasses of the Texas Gulf Coast Prairies and Marshes* -Hutch, Schuster & Drawe, 1999; *New Mexico Range Plants* - Gay, C.W. Jr., Dwyer, D. D., Allison, C., Hatch, S. and Schickendanz, J., 1980; *Manual of the Grasses of the United States*, 2nd Edition - Hitchcock, A.S., 1971; and research performed at the PMC.



Upcoming Events (361) 852-2100 www.ccbotanicalgardens.org

- **Oct. 13th - Herb Day** at the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center. Seminars will be presented on the hour, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Linda Collins and other members of the Rockport Herb & Rose Study Group, will lecture on:
 - 9 a.m. Culinary Herbs
 - 10 a.m. Cool Weather vs. Warm Weather Herbs
 - 11 a.m. Container-Grown Herbs
 - 12 noon Harvesting & Preserving Herbs
 Cindy Meredith of the Herb Cottage in Hallettsville, will have potted herbs available for purchase. General Admission Only. No class fees, members free! Please call for seminar reservations.
- **Oct. 20th - Landscaping A to Z seminar.** Learn plant and tree possibilities for yards—big plants or small, evergreen or blooming, moisture-loving or xeriscape, native or tropical, palm trees or deciduous, and how to mix any of these for a showy, easy-care landscape. Texas Cooperative Extension Horticulturist Michael Potter also will discuss bed preparation materials which will help your new plants start healthy and stay healthy! Class fees are \$6, \$3.50 members, and include admission. Call for reservations.
- **Oct. 26th - Moonlight in the Gardens** is a casual evening fundraiser at the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center, beginning at 7 p.m. Under a full moon, guests will enjoy multiple food and music venues, special garden lighting effects, star and moon-gazing with telescopes, and a Plant &

Nature Silent Auction, which includes seven of this summer's Flamingo Fandango winning costumed flamingos, orchids and more! Tickets are \$35, \$25 members. Tickets which also include an exclusive 6 p.m. SUNSET HOST PARTY are \$50 each.

- **Nov 2nd-3rd - Butterfly Dayz** includes on-site evening and morning one-hour lectures, as well as two butterfly walks. Instructors are: Master Naturalists Sibyl Deacon and Grace Lopez, and butterfly experts Jack and Betty Prentiss. There are no class fees, only general admission is charged. Members are free! For class reservations and more information, call 361-852-2100.

Class schedules are:

Friday, November 2

6:30 p.m. In the Beginning. Learn equipment, books, and locations you'll need to enjoy butterflying.

7:30 p.m. Coastal Bend's Top 20. Learn to identify the top 20 butterfly species in the Coastal Bend.

8:30 p.m. Planting for Butterflies. Learn the best larval and nectar plants to attract butterflies to your property.

Saturday, November 3

10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Butterfly Walks

9:30 a.m. Coastal Bend's Top 20.

10:30 a.m. Planting for Butterflies.

11:30 a.m. In the Beginning.

12:30 p.m. Coastal Bend's Top 20.

NPSOT Calendar Fall 2007- Spring 2008

- **Oct. 4th** - NPSOT Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. – Speaker John Snowden - Grasses
- **Oct. 18th- 21st** – NPSOT and NPSAT Joint Symposium
- **Nov. 1st** - NPSOT Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. – Speaker Shelly Maher – Plant and Animal Interactions
- **Dec.** – **NO NPSOT meeting**
- **Jan. 3rd** - NPSOT Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. – Speaker T.B.A.
- **Feb. 7th** - NPSOT Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. – Speaker T.B.A.
- **March 6th** - NPSOT Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. – Dr. Alice Hempel – Sunflowers
- **April 3rd** - NPSOT Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. – Speaker T.B.A.
- **May 1st** - NPSOT Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. – Speaker T.B.A.

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